



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
REGIONAL PARK AND
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

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April 05, 2022

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT AND
AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT TO LOS
ANGELES ARBORETUM FOUNDATION
FOR THE VISITOR PLAZA PROJECT
(FIFTH DISTRICT) (3-VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$750,000 in Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation for the Visitor Plaza Project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed actions are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons cited herein.
2. Allocate \$750,000 in Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District for a grant to the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation for the Visitor Plaza Project. and,
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or her designee, in her capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grant as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Proposition A Grants Administration Manual for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$750,000 in Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition A), to the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation for the Visitor Plaza Project (Project).

The proposed Project will consist of the following amenities:

- The Arrival Plaza will expand the current entrance and include featured plantings that highlight regionally iconic plants.
- The Welcome Pavilion will restore the historic 1956 gatehouse with four admission ticket windows, including one ADA accessible window, and give more prominence and access to the membership office.
- The Welcome Plaza will be improved to include enhancements, such as a visitor information kiosk, adjacent seating, restrooms, and beverage hospitality, to better connect visitors with the educational experiences, botanical diversity, and family adventures of the Arboretum landscape.
- The South Lot Improvements will create accessible parking and an accessible path of travel from the existing South Parking Lot to the new Arrival Plaza.

The total estimated cost for the Project is \$8,100,000, which will be fully funded by the recommended \$750,000 in Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the 1996 Proposition A; and other funding sources, collectively \$3,003,500 in Charitable Foundation, \$4,214,163 in Individual Gifts, and \$132,337 from the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), or her designee, in her capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD), be authorized to award the grant when applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include grantee qualifications, consistency between the Project and requirements of 1996 Proposition A, and the grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the Project. It is further recommended that the Director be authorized to administer the grant pursuant to the Grants Administration Manual previously approved by your Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal I, Make Investments that Transform Lives, by expanding access to historical information and Goal III, Realizing Tomorrow's Government Today, by highlighting histories of populations that have been historically underserved.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation, in the amount of \$750,000, is budgeted in the RPOSD Available Excess Fund.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition A included a method and process for determining, in each fiscal year, the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of

1992 and 1996. The recommended Excess Funds grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District from prior years as no Excess Funds were declared in Fiscal Year 2021-22.

The 1996 Proposition A requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation meets this requirement.

On March 19, 2019, your Board approved the Proposition A Grants Administration Manual to govern the administration of RPOSD grants. The Grants Administration Manual will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed actions are not subject to CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Section 15378 (b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities of government grants.

All projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for its project. The Department of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Grants Administration Manual approved by your Board in 2019 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD. The recommended Project will expand access to historical information in public spaces in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

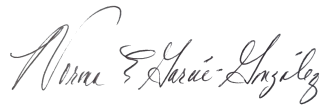
Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Directors

4/5/2022

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norma E. García-González". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Norma" being the most prominent.

Norma E. García-González

Director

CA:AJ

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors